

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A lockable toilet fill valve, comprising:
a toilet fill valve with an actuating arm;
the toilet fill valve being closed when the actuating arm is disposed in a first position;
the toilet fill valve being open when the actuating arm is disposed in a second position; and
a valve lock associated with the actuating arm, the valve lock includes an unlock position and a lock position, wherein the valve lock fixes the actuating arm in the first position when the valve lock is in the lock position.
2. The lockable toilet fill valve of claim 1, wherein the valve lock is connected to the actuating arm, the valve lock sliding along the actuating arm from the unlock position to the lock position.
3. The lockable toilet fill valve of claim 1, wherein the valve lock further comprises a pivoting stand.
4. The lockable toilet fill valve of claim 3, wherein the pivoting stand is pivotally coupled to the actuating arm.
5. The lockable toilet fill valve of claim 4, further comprising a shelf extending from a body of the toilet fill valve, wherein a free end of the pivoting stand rests against the shelf when the pivoting stand is in the lock position.

6. The lockable toilet fill valve of claim 3, wherein the pivoting stand is pivotally coupled to a body portion of the toilet fill valve.

7. The lockable toilet fill valve of claim 6, wherein a free end of the pivoting stand rests against the actuating arm when the pivoting stand is in the lock position.

8. The lockable toilet fill valve of claim 1, further comprising a float operatively coupled to a free end of the actuating arm.

9. The lockable toilet fill valve of claim 1, further comprising:
a retaining lip on the valve lock; and
a rim at a top of the toilet fill valve, wherein the retaining lip of the valve lock engages the rim when the valve lock is in the lock position.

10. The lockable toilet fill valve of claim 1, further comprising a cap over a top of the toilet fill valve, the cap having an opening through which the actuating arm extends, wherein at least a portion of the valve lock extends through the opening when in the lock position.

11. The lockable toilet fill valve of claim 1, wherein:
the valve lock includes a retaining clip; and
the actuating arm includes a retaining structure that is compatible with the retaining clip, the retaining clip engaging the retaining structure to hold the valve lock in the unlock position on the actuating arm.

12. The lockable toilet fill valve of claim 1, wherein:
the valve lock includes a retaining structure; and
the actuating arm includes a retaining protrusion, the retaining protrusion presents a slide resistance to the movement of the valve lock along the actuating arm, thereby holding the valve lock in the unlock position on the actuating arm.

13. A lockable toilet fill valve, comprising:
a toilet fill valve with an actuating arm;
the toilet fill valve being closed when the actuating arm is disposed in a first position;
the toilet fill valve being open when the actuating arm is disposed in a second position; and
means for fixing the actuating arm in the first position.

14. A method for establishing a water pressure at an inlet of a toilet fill valve that includes an actuating arm with a valve lock, the valve lock moving from an unlock position and a lock position, the method comprising the steps of:
moving the valve lock into the lock position while the actuating arm is in a first position, thereby fixing the actuating arm in the first position, where the toilet fill valve is closed when the actuating arm is in the first position;
establishing the water pressure at the inlet of the toilet fill valve while the valve lock is in the lock position; and
moving the valve lock into the unlock position after the water pressure has been established at the inlet of the toilet fill valve.

15. A method for locking a toilet fill valve for the performance of maintenance to a component in a toilet tank, wherein the toilet fill valve includes an actuating arm and a valve lock, the valve lock having an unlock position and a lock position, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning the actuating arm in a first position, where the toilet fill valve is closed when the actuating arm is in the first position;

placing the valve lock into the lock position, thereby fixing the actuating arm in the first position;

draining the toilet tank to perform maintenance on the component in the toilet tank; and

moving the valve lock from the lock position to the unlock position when the maintenance is finished, thereby allowing the toilet fill valve to open and refill the toilet tank with an amount of water.